THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The work relating to the preparation and finalisation of the Assam electoral rolls was completed and final rolls were published for all the 126 constituencies on the 7th November, 1985.

सरकारी क्षेत्र के कर्मचारियों के लिये पेंशन-योजना

2702. **श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी :**
श्री प्यारे लाल खंडेलवाल :

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों की भांति सरकारी क्षेत्र के उद्यमों के कर्मचारियों के लिए कोई पेंशन योजना आरम्भ करने के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसकी मुख्य-मुख्य बातें क्या है और इस सम्बन्ध में निष्कर्ष भी क्या है ?

औद्योगिक विकास विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० अरूणाचलम) : (क) और (ख) केन्द्रीय सरकारी उद्यमों में काम करने वाले कर्मचारियों के लिये पेंशन योजना लागू करने के लिये कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन नहीं है ।

Bonus to Extra Departmental Employees of post and telegraph Department

2703. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goernment are aware that the Extra Departmental Employees of Post and Telegraph Department are getting bonus at the Rate of Rs. 52 per head while other postal employees are getting bonus for 23—28 days;

(b) if so, what are the reasons there for;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to bring the Extra Departmental Employees at par with other postal employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Extra Departmental employees of the P&T Department were paid bonus at 29 days as applicable to other postal employees if they were on service throughout the year.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

Food procesing industries

2704. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the food processing industries in the country and the trade they are engaged in;

(b) whether any of the aforesaid industries have entered into foreign collaboration agreements for processing food during the last 3 years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the processed foods are also being exported and if so, the foreign exchange earned by each of the industries during the lsat 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Food processing industries in the country cover a wide spectrum of products. These include Dairy products, Cocoa-based products, Soft drinks, Bakery Products, Confectionery, Malted Milk Foods, Condensed Milk, Break-fast Foods, High Protein and Weaning Foods, Marine Products and Fruits & Vegetable products etc.

(b) and (c) Details of all approved foreign collaborations showing the names of Indian & Foreign firms, the item of manufacture and nature of collaboration are published on a quarterly basis by the Indian Investment Centre as Supplement to its Monthly News Letter, Copies of this Publication are furnished to the Parliament Library.

(d) Value of exports of Processed Foods during the last 3 years are as under:—

Year	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1982-83	25,094
1983-84	20,326
1984-85	26,500

Soda Ash

2750. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study so far to see the purpose for which Soda Ash is generally used;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there has been a steep rise in the price of this commodity making it difficult for the small scale traders to carry on their business; and

(d) what was the price of Soda Ash during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) While no specific study has been conducted in this regard, uses of Soda Ash are well known.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Due to spurt in demand of Soda Ash, there were reports of increase in the price of Soda Ash in the domestic market. Government, therefore, allowed imports of Soda Ash under Open General Licence (OGL) at reduced rate of duty. As a result of this, Soda Ash is now available in the domestic market at a reasonable price.

As per available information, the prices of Soda Ash Light of different manufacturers, exclusive of Excise Duty & Sales Tax, as on 1.4.83, 1.4.84 and 1.4.85 ranged between Rs. 1880-2070/-; Rs. 2175-2245/-; Rs. 2324-2994/- per tonne.

Closure of Janupangara post office in Orissa

2706. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DERA Grampanchayat of Rajnagar Block in Cuttak District, Orissa has a population of 7,000 and having 20 villages and wards has only one branch post office since 1972 namely Janupangara post office and that there is no other post office within ten kilometres from this post office;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Superintendent of Post Offices, Cuttack North Circle has issued a notice to close this post office; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir. According to the facts available to the Department, Dera Gram Panchayat covers 26 villages including 10 uninhabited villages and the total population according to the 1981 census is 5192. The branch post office at Junapangra was opened on 26.2.1974. There is a post office at a distance of 5 Kms. in Kurunti and another at Gopalpur (Rajnagar), a distance of 6.4 Kms.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The post office was opened on the basis of non-returnable contribution (NRC) offered by Dera Gram Panchayat. Arrears amounting to Rs. 18,845.64 are now due from the Gram Panchayat. A notice has been issued for the recovery of the amount and for closure of the post office in the even of default.

The general policy laid down in respect of post offices opened on NRC basis is that if the financial obligation undertaken by the sponsor is defaulted, the post office may be closed down. However, other relevant factors such as distance from the